

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05694 130947Z

17

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA ON THE AMERICAN ZIONIST THREAT

1. SUMMARY: IZVESTIYA FOR APRIL 8 CARRIES A 1/3 PAGE
ARTICLE, ENTITLED "PAYMENT IN BISCUITS," WHICH SEEMS INTENDED
PRINCIPALLY AS A WARNING TO SOVIET CITIZENS NOT TO HAVE
CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS. THE ARTICLE, BY ONE V. NILOV,
ALSO WEAVES TOGETHER SEVERAL PROPAGANDA THEMES DEAR TO THE
SOVIET AUTHORITIES. OSTENSIBLY, IT RELATES THE ADVENTURES
OF MARK LEVITT, AN AMERICAN STUDENT WHO WAS APPARENTLY
DETAINED BY THE POLICE DURING A TRIP LAST SUMMER TO THE USSR
AND PERSUADED TO WRITE A LONG DECLARATION CONCERNING HIS
ACTIVITIES HERE AS WELL AS HIS CONNECTIONS WITH AMERICAN
ZIONIST GROUPS. A PORTION OF LEVITT'S MANUSCRIPT IS
REPRODUCED ALONG WITH THE ARTICLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES LEVITT AS A MEMBER OF
"STUDENTS FOR THE DEFENSE OF SOVIET JEWRY", AND AFFIRMS
THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS ANTI-SOVIET
PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION ENCOURAGING SOVIET JEWS
TO EMIGRATE. IT MENTIONS SEVERAL OTHER
AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR GOALS, NOTES THAT
THERE ARE 500 ZIONIST GROUPS IN THE USA AND
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05694 130947Z

NAMES SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS. MUCH OF THE

ARTICLE IS WRITTEN LIKE A SPY STORY, MAKING LEVITT AND OTHERS LIKE HIM SOUND AS THOUGH THEY WERE ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE. THE ARTICLE COMMENTS THAT AMERICAN ZIONIST GROUPS ARE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR NOW, BECAUSE IN 1975 THOSE LEAVING ISRAEL EXCEEDED BY 2000 THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL. THIS WAS DUE, NILOV SAYS, TO ISRAEL'S EXPANSIONIST, AGGRESSIVE POLICY, AIMED AT PREVENTING A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE ARTICLE NOTES LEVITT'S CONTACTS WITH MUSCOVITE JEWS (SEVERAL ARE NAMED), AND THAT HE HAD PARCELS OF FOOD (THE "BISCUITS" OF THE TITLE), CLOTHES FOR SALE ON THE BLACK MARKET AND \$1500 IN BANK CHECKS. WHILE BEING INTERROGATED, LEVITT IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING APPEALED FOR CLEMENCY ON THE GROUNDS OF HIS YOUTH AND HIS MISTAKEN BELIEF IN ZIONIST PROPAGANDA. HE ALSO ADMITS TO HAVING ORGANIZED THE MEETING IN LENINGRAD OF CONGRESSMEN YATES AND GREEN WITH LENINGRAD JEWISH REFUSENIKS. THE REFUSAL TO ALLOW THEM TO EMIGRATE IS ASCRIBED TO PROPER "STATE REASONS". IZVESTIYA CLAIMS THE DISCUSSION WITH THE CONGRESSMEN FOCUSED ON AMERICAN ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF SENATOR JACKSON, "THE LEADER OF THE CHOIR OF AMERICAN HAWKS".

4. AFTER NOTING THAT LEVITT DID NOT DENY A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICAN ZIONIST GROUPS AND THE CIA AND FBI, THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT SOVIET REFUSAL TO ADMIT SUCH PEOPLE AS LEVITT INTO THE SOVIET UNION IS IN ACCORD WITH THE "HELSINKI SPIRIT." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH A CONDEMNATION OF GLEN RICHTER, HEAD OF STUDENTS FOR THE DEFENSE OF SOVIET JEWRY, AND HIS PAPER, "ACTION NEWSLETTER."

5. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE IS PROBABLY INTENDED PRIMARILY AS A WARNING TO THE SOVIET POPULATION NOT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH WESTERN TOURISTS. SUCH A WARNING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IS ROUTINE. THE ARTICLE ALSO MANAGES, HOWEVER, TO TOUCH ON OTHER CURRENT PROPAGANDA THEMES; E.G., ISRAELI POLICY, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA, CONDEMNATION OF SENATOR JACKSON, WESTERN CRITICISM OF REFUSALS TO ALLOW CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05694 130947Z

JEWS TO EMIGRATE, AND SOVIET OBSERVATION OF THE "SPIRIT OF HELSINKI." REPRODUCING A PORTION OF LEVITT'S STATEMENT, AND PROVIDING NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. ADDS AN IMPRESSION OF SOVIET OMNISCIENCE AND OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SECURITY FORCES. ALTOGETHER, IT IS A CLEVERLY CONSTRUCTED ARTICLE.

6. TEXT OF THE ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

BREMENT

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Message Attributes

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